

United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Miles City Field Office

Badlands Run/Walk

Categorical Exclusion (CX)
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0169-CX

For Further Information Please Contact:

Bureau of Land Management
Miles City Field Office
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BLM



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Miles City Field Office
111 Garryowen Road
Miles City, Montana 59301

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

A. Background

BLM Office: Miles City Field Office (MT-022)

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: BLM Recreation; SRP #MT020-13-001

NEPA Number (if applicable): DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0169-CX

Proposed Action Title/Type: Trail run/walk in the Terry Badlands on the Calypso Trail.

Location of Proposed Action (include county): Prairie County - run will begin in T12N, R50E.

Description of Proposed Action: The Prairie County Economic Development Council, the Prairie Community Hospital Foundation and a group of volunteers are proposing a competitive trail run event, on Saturday, June 29th, 2013; where the public will run and walk distances of either 3.1 or 6.2 miles over the roadbed of the Calypso Trail. A one-mile, noncompetitive fun run will also be held. Off-road travel will not be permitted. Approximately 50 runners and 25 spectators are expected for the event. The goal of the event is to promote awareness of the recreational opportunities in Prairie County, specifically the Calypso Trail and historic landmarks located in the Terry Badlands. The event is not for profit and proceeds will be used to cover expenses of the race. The event is sanctioned by the United States Track and Field Association. First aid stations will be located at the turn around points and portable toilets will be on site. The event will take place during the morning hours. Parking will be located at the start of the trail run, right off of the Calypso Trail. The trail run, base area, race start and parking area are not located within the Terry Badlands WSA.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Big Dry Resource Area Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: April 1996

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): The Record of Decision for the Big Dry RMP on Page 17 of the Recreation Section notes that other permitted recreational uses will be authorized according to the Special Recreation Permit Guidelines for Montana, North and South Dakota (USDI, BLM 1987c). On Page 19 of the Recreation Section it notes that BLM issues Special Recreation Use permits in order to protect resources, control visitor use and provide opportunities for commercial, competitive, noncommercial, noncompetitive, and special recreation uses on public lands.

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM11.9, Appendix 4, H.1: Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan (43 CFR 2932.5). The proposed action will be day use only with minimal impact less than 1 acre.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and, as documented below, none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

Extraordinary Circumstances		
The project would:		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: The proposed action would not have significant impacts on public health or safety. The SRP application package includes an operating plan which states a waiver of liability for each participant in the race. The event is sanctioned by the USA Track and Field Association. Aid stations will be on hand with first aid supplies and water available. The start finish area will also have one portable toilet, first aid, and liquids for hydration available. DJL 6/12/2013
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas..		
Yes	No X	Rationale: The proposed action is not within an ACEC, NNL, Wilderness Study Area, or other designated management area. The trail run will be held just outside of the boundary for the Terry Badlands WSA. The run would not affect drinking water aquifers or other critical areas. The trail run is meant to promote awareness of the recreational opportunities, specifically the trails and historic landmarks located in the area. It would not affect the historical significance or integrity of the site. DJL 6/12/2013
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].		
Yes	No X	Rationale: The proposed action is not considered controversial. It is meant to enhance and promote public awareness and appreciation of historic and recreational opportunities on public lands. The trail run is not located within the WSA; the run and staging areas are

		outside of the boundary. DJL 6/12/2013
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: The proposed action would not involve any unknown environmental risks. The trail run is on an existing road, outside of the WSA, and would have little environmental impact. The parking area, base area, turnaround points and first aid stations are all located outside of the WSA, as per the map within the operating plan. DJL 6/12/2013
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: No connected actions related to the proposed trail run are anticipated. The action would not set a precedent for future actions normally requiring an EA. DJL 6/12/2013
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: This action would not have direct relationship with other actions that collectively would have cumulative significant environmental effects. DJL 6/12/2013
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: A review of BLM and SHPO Cultural Resource Records databases indicates that one eligible cultural resource site (24PE91, a lithic scatter) has been recorded on public lands in the vicinity of this undertaking. The site is situated over ¼ of a mile from the proposed action. The proposed action meets the inventory exemption criteria found in BLM's Montana/Dakotas Cultural Resources Handbook H-8110-1, Appendix One, Recreation 2.a (where there will be no surface disturbance). In this case, issuance of a Special Recreation Permit for a trail run and staging area where there will be no surface disturbance is an action that generally does not involve any direct surface disturbance and as a non-surface disturbing type of activity, has little potential to significantly affect cultural properties. The parking area and race related activities will not be located near or within the cultural site in the vicinity of this action. No cultural resource values considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would be affected by this undertaking (see BLM Cultural Resources Report Number: MT-020-13-218). DM 06/17/13
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		

Yes	No X	Rationale: There are no known threatened or endangered species present within the area of the proposed action. <i>dct 06/13/2013</i>
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
Yes	No X	Rationale: There would be no such laws violated as a result of this event. <i>dct 06/13/2013</i>
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
Yes	No X	Rationale: The proposed action occurs on Federal lands currently used for grazing and would not impact any minority or low income populations. DJL 6/12/2013
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
Yes	No X	Rationale: A review of BLM and SHPO Cultural Resource Records databases indicates that one cultural resource site is known to exist or has been recorded on public lands in the vicinity of this action and no known sacred sites of interest to Tribes are listed in the Ethnographic Overview for Southeast Montana,. The proposed action would not limit access to public lands where it already exists nor would it allow new access where it does not presently exist. Since no surface disturbance is proposed, there would be no impacts to the physical integrity of sites of traditional cultural concern. DM 06/17/13
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		
Yes	No X BSW 06/12/2013	Rationale: No impacts on noxious weed introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds from this project.



Kathy Bockness
Environmental Coordinator

6/24/2013
Date _____

D: Reviewing Official:

Reviewing Official: Shane Findlay Date: 6/13/2013

Name: Shane Findlay

Title: Assistant Field Manager, Division of Nonrenewable Resources

I considered the competitive trail run event, on Saturday, June 29th, 2013, where the public will run and walk distances of either 3.1 or 6.2 miles over the roadbed of the Calypso Trail. A one-mile, noncompetitive fun run will also be held. Off-road travel will not be permitted. Approximately 50 runners and 25 spectators are expected for the event. The event will take place during the morning hours. Parking will be located at the start of the trail run, right off of the Calypso Trail. The trail run, base area, race start and parking area are not located within the Terry Badlands WSA. Use of this CX is appropriate.

D: Signature

Authorizing Official: 

Name: Todd D. Yeager

Title: Field Manager

Date: 6/24/2013

Decision
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0169-CX

Decision and Rationale on Action

I have decided to implement issuing a Special Recreation Permit for a competitive trail run event, on Saturday, June 29th, 2013, where the public will run and walk distances of either 3.1 or 6.2 miles over the roadbed of the Calypso Trail. A one-mile, noncompetitive fun run will also be held. Off-road travel will not be permitted. Approximately 50 runners and 25 spectators are expected for the event. The goal of the event is to promote awareness of the recreational opportunities in Prairie County, specifically the Calypso Trail and historic landmarks located in the Terry Badlands. The event is not for profit and proceeds will be used to cover expenses of the race. The event is sanctioned by the United States Track and Field Association. First aid stations will be located at the turn around points and portable toilets will be on site. The event will take place during the morning hours. Parking will be located at the start of the trail run, right off of the Calypso Trail. The trail run, base area, race start and parking area are not located within the Terry Badlands WSA. These actions meet the need for action.

In addition, I have reviewed the plan conformance statement and have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required under the National Environmental Policy Act (as documented in the attached CX, NEPA Compliance (Section C).

Implementation Date

This project will be implemented on June 29th, 2013.

E: Authorizing Official:



Authorizing Official: _____ Date: 6/24/2013

Name: Todd Yeager

Title: Field Manager, Miles City Field Office

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

Per BLM Manual H-2930-1, Recreation Permit Administration, Chapter 4, II, B. Individuals who believe they are adversely affected by a BLM decision to issue or deny an SRP may appeal the decision. Appeals are made to the IBLA under Title 43 CFR, Part 4. The appellant's notice of appeal must be received by the authorized officer within 30 days of receipt of the final decision. The authorized officer has 10 days to forward the Notice of Appeal along with the decision appealed, and case file to the IBLA. A copy is also sent to the Regional Solicitor. Within 30 days after filing the notice of appeal with the authorized officer, the appellant files a complete statement of reasons for the appeal with the IBLA and provides a copy to the Regional Solicitor. Decisions to issue a permit take effect immediately upon execution if BLM determines that the proposed use is in conformance with BLM plans, policies and programs, local zoning ordinances and any other requirements, and will not cause appreciable damage or disturbance to the public lands, resources, or

improvements. All final decisions of the authorized officer shall remain effective pending the appeal unless the Secretary rules otherwise. Petitions for stay of decisions may be made to the Secretary, through the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals (43 CFR 2931.8).

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review and decision, contact

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Terry Badlands Trail Run

June 29, 2013

